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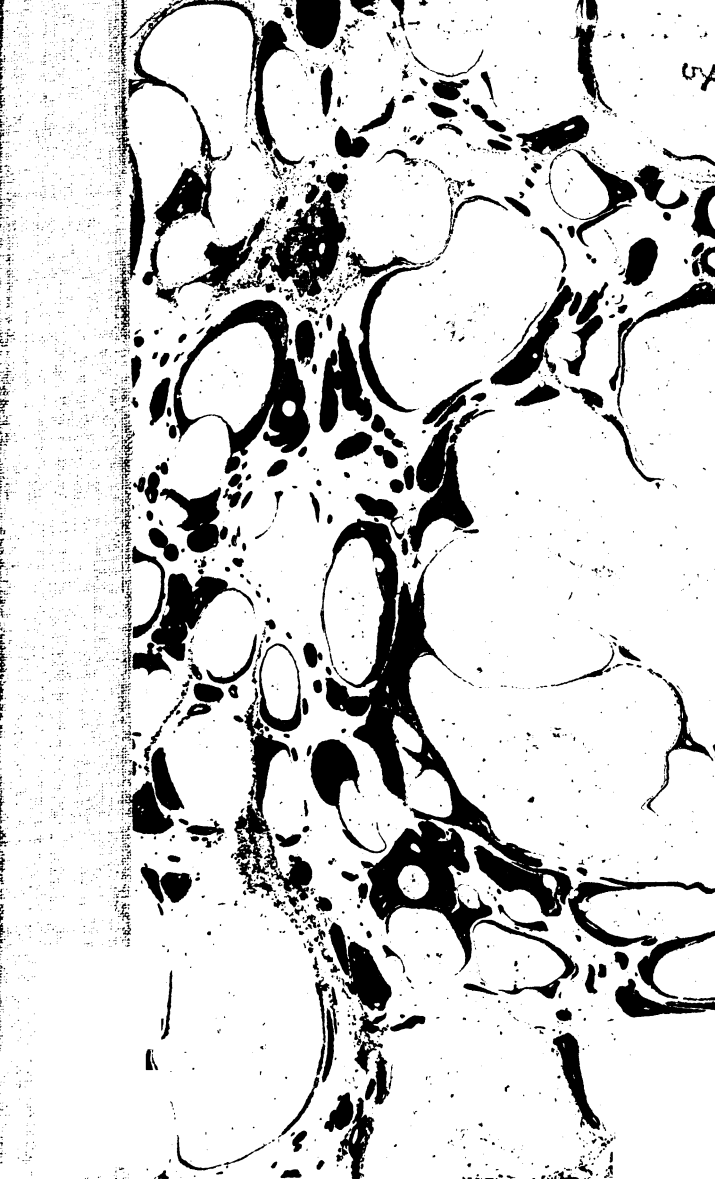
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° **CONSTITUTION**

OF THE

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH

OF THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR

EDUCATING PIOUS YOUTH.

FOR THE

GOSPEL MINISTRY.

**MIDDLEBURY, VT.
Printed by Francis Burnap.
1819.**

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Apr 25, 1942

CONSTITUTION.

HIGHLY approving of the benevolent object of "The American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry;" and desirous of co-operating in this labour of love, we, whose names are underwritten, hereby form an Association, by the name of **THE NORTHWESTERN BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR EDUCATING PIOUS YOUTH FOR THE GOSPEL MINISTRY;** and adopt the following Constitution :

ARTICLE I.

Any person in the state of Vermont, or in the northern counties of the state of New-York, may become a member of this Society, by subscribing the constitution, and engaging to pay annually a sum not less than *one dollar* ; and continue to be a member, as long as he shall pay this annual subscription : or any person who shall subscribe and pay, at one time, a sum not less than *ten dollars*, shall be a member for life.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, two or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee, one or more Traveling Agents, and in each town, where the

interests of the Society can be promoted, two or more Local Agents. These officers, except the Executive Committee and the Agents, shall be chosen annually, at the stated annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE III.

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, the Secretary, and nine or more other gentlemen. The Directors shall hold two stated meetings in a year; the *first* immediately after their election, at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Society; and the *second* on the day preceding the next following annual meeting of the Society, at the place of that meeting. They may likewise continue their first stated meeting by adjournment; or the President may call a special meeting of the Board, by causing particular notice of the time and place to be given to each Director. Five members of the Board shall be requisite to constitute a quorum for business.

It shall be the duty of the Directors, at their *first* meeting, to appoint an Executive Committee from their own number; and give them such directions, in addition to the provisions of the Constitution, as may be deemed expedient. At their *second* meeting, it shall be their business to examine the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and the statement of the Treasurer; and prepare their annual Report to the Society.

ARTICLE IV.

The *Executive Committee* shall consist of three persons, appointed by the Board of Directors ; till this Society shall be regularly acknowledged, as a Branch of "the American Society for educating Pious Youth for the Gospel Ministry," agreeably to the provisions of the constitution of that Society. After such acknowledgment by the Directors of that Society, one member of this Committee will of course be appointed by them. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to examine candidates for the charity of the Society ; and make appropriations to such as are duly admitted, as beneficiaries, according to the provisions of the Constitution, and the instructions of the Directors.

They shall likewise have authority to appoint Travelling Agents, whenever the interests of the Society shall require it ; and designate Local Agents, either directly, or by Travelling Agents.

For the purpose of examining candidates, making appropriations to beneficiaries, &c. the Executive Committee shall hold quarterly meetings on the first Wednesday in January, April, July and October at 2 o'clock, P. M. and shall meet at such other times, as they may find convenient and necessary.

Finally, it shall be the duty of the Committee, at the close of their official year, to prepare a detailed report of their transactions,

and the state and prospects of the Society ; which report they shall present to the Board of Directors at their meeting, on the day preceding the annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

'The Board of Directors or the Executive Committee, may draw orders on the Treasurer, to defray the incidental expences of the Society. No officer of the Society, however, except Travelling Agents, shall receive any pecuniary reward for their services.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the *Local Agents*, (whose term of office shall continue from year to year, as long as they shall promote the interests of the Society) in each town respectively, to consult together ; and in the manner they shall judge most expedient, endeavour to procure subscriptions, donations and contributions to the funds of the Society ; or to organize auxiliary societies, both male and female. It shall especially be the duty of the Local Agents to encourage an annual contribution on the first Sabbath in January, for the funds of the Society, in the several religious societies of every denomination of Christians, in their respective towns ; to receive the avails of such contributions ; and in the course of the same month ; to collect the sums subscribed by members and donors ; and transmit the money thus collected to the Treasurer of the Society, at the annual

meeting, or previously, if convenient.—It shall likewise be their duty to transmit the names of subscribers, with the sums paid, against their names, to the Secretary; that he may be able to make a distinct record of the members and donors in each town. And, if in any place, a church or society or an individual person should undertake to educate one or more pious young men for the Ministry, the Local Agents in that place may state to the Secretary the annual sum appropriated for this purpose, that the fact may be included in the annual report of the Directors: Provided such young men shall have been examined and approved by the Executive Committee; and shall annually present satisfactory certificates from their instructors, agreeably to the constitution.

ARTICLE VII.

Any church or Auxiliary Society may send to the annual meeting, one delegate for every ten dollars contributed, in money or necessaries, toward the support of an approved beneficiary.

The President of any Auxiliary Society, which contributes annually *one hundred dollars*, shall be an honorary Vice-President of this Society; and all gentlemen, who make a donation of one hundred dollars, or who, at one payment, increase their original subscription to that sum, shall be honorary Vice-Presidents.

ARTICLE VIII.

Any indigent young man of hopeful piety, exemplary character and respectable talents (with whatever denomination of Christians connected) may be a candidate for the charity of this Society.—None, however, shall be admitted as a *beneficiary*, without personal examination by the Executive Committee. Nor shall any one be admitted to examination, who is not fifteen years of age; and who has not devoted at least three months to classical studies, with a qualified instructor.

Every applicant shall likewise be required to exhibit to the Executive Committee, at the time of his examination, unequivocal testimonials, from three or more serious and respectable persons, best acquainted with him; stating his age, place of residence, and need of assistance; declaring their views of his moral and religious character, talents and learning; and certifying their belief, that it is his serious desire to devote his life to the Gospel Ministry.

Every approved beneficiary, whether in an Academy, at a College, or with a private instructor, in any stage of his education, upon application to the Executive Committee, shall receive quarterly some assistance. No one, however, shall receive more than is deemed sufficient, with economy, personal exertion, and the aid of his friends, to enable him to pursue his studies without embarrassment.

Every application to the Executive Committee for assistance, must be accompanied with a statement of expences, and a certificate from the instructor of the beneficiary, testifying that he continues to sustain, in all respects, the character which the constitution requires.

ARTICLE IX.

There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the first Wednesday in February, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The place for holding each annual meeting, shall be designated by vote of the Society, at the meeting preceding. At each of these meetings a discourse shall be delivered before the Society.

ARTICLE X.

This Constitution may be altered by a majority of the subscribers, present at the first meeting for the organization of the Society ; which shall be holden at Castleton, on the first Wednesday of February, 1820. But, after that period, no alteration shall be made without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

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